

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO.

DATE

BILL NO.

14
1-31-13
SB 143

TO THE SENATE FWP COMMITTEE:

RE: SB 143- AN ACT REVISING BISON MANAGEMENT LAWS;
ESTABLISHING A YEAR-ROUND HUNTING SEASON; INCREASING THE
NUMBER OF AVAILABLE LICENSES; PROHIBITING THE TRANSFER,
RELOCATION, OR TRANSPLANTATION OF WILD BUFFALO;

POSITION: Montana Sportsmen's Alliance hereby goes on record **STRONGLY**
OPPOSING SB 143 based on the following reasons:

- Disallows Wild Bison from entering the state. The national media will love this one.
- Allows Landowners to shoot wild bison year round, for any reason if they are on private land so long as they obtain a hunting license. We do not do that with any other big game species and sets a dangerous precedent for other wildlife that might be found on private land, either seasonally or permanently. Allows up to 3 bison to be taken annually.
- Turns Wild Bison management over to the Department of Livestock completely. Effectively converting bison from a wildlife species to a livestock species.
- Forbids the State of Montana from ever releasing Wild Bison on Public Land (Section 3, sub 4). A big hit to the future of public bison hunting.
- Forbids the transplanting of bison anywhere other than the National Bison Range.
- This bill will destroy the hard bi-partisan work accomplished by SB 212 in 2011.
- Violates every ethic and standards Montana has set in regards to wildlife management. Treats bison the way some states treat feral hogs. These are wildlife, not pests.
- Eliminates participation in the Interagency Bison Management Plan & working Group (section 1), something we have participated in for years. A lot of good is coming from that process toward solutions for brucellosis management.

Once again we would like to state our **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB 143.

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

www.montanasportsmenalliance.com
www.pac.montanasportsmenalliance.com
P.O. Box 1324 | Hamilton, Montana 59840